

DEPARTMENT OF THE YOUTH AUTHORITY

LENGTH OF STAY OF YOUTH AUTHORITY WARDS*

2003

The average amount of time (length of stay) Youth Authority wards spent incarcerated prior to their release to parole in 2003 is presented in Tables 1 and 2. Table 3 displays the length of stay on parole prior to removal from parole.

Note: This report does not include wards who were discharged from Youth Authority jurisdiction without having been on parole. In 2003, there were 579 such cases.

The 2003 **overall** institutional length of stay was 26.4 months, two months less than the average of 28.5 months in 2002.

The average length of stay for **first commitments only** was 34.1 months, a month and a half decrease from the 2002 figure of 35.9 months. Tables 1 and 2 further delineate the institutional length of stay for first commitments by sex, ethnic group, age at parole release, primary commitment offense, and Youthful Offender Parole Board (YOPB) hearing category.

The average length of stay for parole violators re-released in 2003 was 10.4 months, down from 11.9 months in 2002. The average length of stay for recommitments who were released in 2003 was 29.3 months, a six month decrease from the figure of 35.0 months in 2002.

A multi-year comparison of the average length of stay on parole is presented in Table 3. From 18.8 months in 1984, the average amount of time parolees spent on parole increased to 19.5 months in 1986, then began decreasing until it reached a low of 15.3 months in 1990. The average then began going up, and in 2001, the average length of stay on parole was 21.1 months, the highest in the past twenty years. In 2003, the average length of stay on parole was 19.6 months. It is too soon to tell if the small declines in the past two years will continue as part of a trend.

* Does not include length-of-stay information for CDC cases housed in CYA facilities under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1731.5(c).

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TABLE 1

INSTITUTIONAL LENGTH OF STAY OF YOUTH AUTHORITY COMMITMENTS
RELEASED TO PAROLE IN 2003

By Selected Characteristics and Court of Commitment

CHARACTERISTICS	TOTAL		JUVENILE COURT		CRIMINAL COURT	
	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS
TOTAL PAROLE RELEASES	2,466	26.4	2,408	26.4	58	29.2
FIRST COMMITMENT PAROLE RELEASES.....	1,644	34.1	1,617	33.8	27	51.0
Sex						
Males	1,525	34.6	1,502	34.4	23	51.9
Females	119	27.3	115	26.6	4	46.2
Ethnic Group						
White	288	32.5	281	32.1	7	47.1
Hispanic	801	33.5	790	33.3	11	52.8
African American	436	36.4	432	36.3	4	47.9
Asian	79	32.4	77	32.1	2	42.8
Other	40	35.9	37	33.6	3	63.7
Age at Parole						
16 and under	40	18.5	40	18.5	-	-
17.....	142	21.8	141	21.8	1	30.9
18.....	290	22.9	289	22.9	1	27.1
19.....	475	27.5	473	27.6	2	16.5
20.....	433	36.2	428	36.1	5	39.2
21 and over	264	63.8	246	64.0	18	60.6
Board Hearing Category						
Category 1.....	57	89.3	56	89.4	1	83.9
Category 2.....	121	55.2	112	54.7	9	62.0
Category 3.....	98	48.1	93	48.6	5	39.1
Category 4.....	469	35.6	460	35.4	9	45.1
Category 5.....	427	28.9	425	28.8	2	61.4
Category 6.....	441	22.7	440	22.7	1	12.2
Category 7.....	31	17.0	31	17.0	-	-
Type of Offense						
Misdemeanor	21	14.9	21	14.9	-	-
Felony	1,623	34.4	1596	34.1	27	51.0
Parole Violator Releases*	793	10.4	-	-	-	-
Recommitment Releases*	29	29.3	-	-	-	-

*Information by committing court not available.

TABLE 2
INSTITUTIONAL LENGTH OF STAY OF FIRST COMMITMENTS
RELEASED TO PAROLE IN 2003

By Primary Commitment Offense and Court

PRIMARY COMMITMENT OFFENSE	TOTAL		JUVENILE COURT		CRIMINAL COURT	
	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER PAROLED	AVERAGE MONTHS
TOTAL FIRST COMMITMENT PAROLE RELEASES.....	1,644	34.1	1,617	33.8	27	51.0
Murder 1st Degree	39	87.2	39	87.2	-	-
Murder 2nd Degree	12	94.7	12	94.7	-	-
Manslaughter	16	51.1	13	47.7	3	66.2
Robbery, Enhanced	116	40.6	114	40.4	2	47.0
Carjacking	31	45.4	28	43.4	3	63.9
Other Robbery Offenses	168	31.4	166	31.2	2	39.6
Assault to Murder	34	63.6	33	64.0	1	51.2
Aggravated Assault	264	35.5	259	35.4	5	40.6
Other Assault Offenses	119	27.4	119	27.4	-	-
Burglary First Degree	201	29.5	200	29.4	1	48.5
Other Burglary Offenses	99	24.1	99	24.1	-	-
Grand Theft	60	25.7	59	25.8	1	20.7
Auto Theft	118	24.2	118	24.2	-	-
Other Theft Offenses	36	21.4	36	21.4	-	-
Forcible Rape	33	59.5	32	60.4	1	32.6
Other Sex Offenses	62	48.7	57	47.6	5	61.7
Possession Hard Narcotic	30	27.5	30	27.5	-	-
Selling Hard Narcotic	10	37.1	10	37.1	-	-
Possession Marijuana	5	24.1	5	24.1	-	-
Selling Marijuana	5	21.0	5	21.0	-	-
Other Drug Offenses	38	23.9	38	23.9	-	-
Weapons	86	21.0	85	21.1	1	12.2
Arson	18	41.8	18	41.8	-	-
Extortion/Kidnapping	14	46.9	12	43.2	2	69.1
Miscellaneous Felony	17	19.4	17	19.4	-	-
Miscellaneous Misdemeanor	11	15.2	11	15.2	-	-
Escape Juvenile Facility	2	8.2	2	8.2	-	-

TABLE 3
PAROLE LENGTH OF STAY
By Year and Type of Removal from Parole

CALENDAR YEAR	TOTAL REMOVED		NON-VIOLATION DISCHARGES		REVOCATIONS		VIOLATION DISCHARGES	
	NUMBER	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER	AVERAGE MONTHS	NUMBER	AVERAGE MONTHS
1984	4,212	18.8	1,495	22.7	1,436	13.4	1,281	20.4
1985	4,231	19.0	1,472	23.0	1,480	13.3	1,279	20.8
1986	3,941	19.5	1,307	24.4	1,634	14.4	1,000	21.7
1987	3,357	19.0	1,084	23.5	1,491	14.1	782	22.1
1988	2,721	17.7	935	22.4	1,105	12.3	681	20.1
1989	2,859	15.8	979	18.7	1,135	11.6	745	18.1
1990	3,277	15.3	1,070	18.5	1,346	11.4	861	17.2
1991	3,583	16.3	1,169	19.3	1,369	12.2	1,045	18.4
1992	3,188	17.1	1,070	20.4	1,202	12.3	916	19.5
1993	3,326	16.9	998	21.2	1,359	12.3	969	18.8
1994	3,317	17.5	989	21.6	1,487	13.0	841	20.4
1995	3,479	18.2	1,213	21.8	1,478	13.7	788	21.3
1996	3,451	19.2	1,384	23.1	1,268	13.5	799	21.5
1997	3,618	18.9	1,467	22.4	1,340	13.6	811	21.1
1998	3,542	19.3	1,511	22.0	1,204	14.7	827	21.0
1999	3,686	20.5	1,756	22.7	1,081	15.4	849	22.3
2000	3,021	20.1	1,191	22.8	1,080	15.3	750	22.7
2001	2,808	21.1	1,114	24.2	968	15.7	726	23.5
2002	2,733	20.1	1,058	23.8	996	14.6	679	22.6
2003	2,527	19.6	932	23.6	883	13.7	712	21.7